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Police: Girl forced to be a prostitute

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BOYNTON BEACH • An 18-year-old man who allegedly took in a runaway teen and forced her into prostitution to pay his rent was arrested by police Friday.

Mackenley Desir arranged a clientele of a half-dozen men who would pay him \$50 to \$100 for intercourse with the girl, police said.

The teen, whose name was not released, was between 16 and 17, police said. She had been living at a friend's house in Boynton Beach when she was introduced to Desir. He later asked her to move in with him and she agreed.

For several weeks, Desir made the girl work as a prostitute until she escaped one day while he was at work, police said. She borrowed money from a friend and called police from a



Desir

pay phone. Police Lt. Jeff Katz said the teen was picked up Dec. 7, but he would not say where the teen was staying.

She told investigators that Desir once placed a loaded gun to her head and acted like he was going to kill her, police said.

Investigators were able to track down the distinctive handgun the teen described and it helped lead them to Desir, Katz said. He was arrested near his home after he tried to flee on foot, police said.

Inside his apartment, police found prescription medications, crack and marijuana, Katz said.

Police walked a handcuffed Desir to a patrol car Friday afternoon to

take him to the Palm Beach County Jail.

Desir faces many charges, including aggravated child abuse, unlawful sexual activity with a minor, aggravated assault with a firearm and forcing a person to be a prostitute, police said.

"I thought that she was his wife or something," said John Floyd, who owns the duplex where Desir lived.

In the approximately two weeks Desir lived in the duplex, Floyd said he never saw anyone but the two of them going in and out.

"I was surprised when police told me what was going on and asked for keys to the place," Floyd said.

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